



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
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Seattle, WA 98115-0070

Refer to:
OSB2000-0207-FEC

May 20, 2002

Mr. Donald V. Friberg, Chief
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attn: Jerry Novotny or Rachel Miller
Division of Federal Aid
911 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Re: Endangered Species Act Section 7 Formal Consultation and Magnuson-Stevens Act
Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for the Rogers Landing Marine Park Boat Ramp and
Transient Dock Replacement, near Newberg, Yamhill County, Oregon (No. Y-3-D)

Dear Mr. Friberg:

Enclosed is a biological opinion (Opinion) prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on the effects of issuance of a grant to the Oregon State Marine Board by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Sport Fish Restoration Act for replacement of a boat ramp and transient dock in the Willamette River, near Newberg, Yamhill County, Oregon. In this Opinion, NMFS concludes that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of ESA-listed Upper Willamette River chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Upper Willamette River steelhead (*O. mykiss*) or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat(s). As required by section 7 of the ESA, we have included reasonable and prudent measures with non-discretionary terms and conditions that are necessary to minimize the potential for incidental take associated with this action.

The attached biological opinion contains an analysis of the effects of the proposed action on designated critical habitat. Shortly before the issuance of this Opinion, however, a Federal court vacated the rule designating critical habitat for the Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) considered in this opinion. The analysis and conclusions regarding critical habitat remain informative for our application of the jeopardy standard even though they no longer have independent legal significance. Also, if critical habitat is redesignated before this action is fully implemented, the analysis will be relevant when determining whether a reinitiation of consultation will be necessary at that time. For these reasons and the need to timely issue this Opinion, our critical habitat analysis has not been removed from this Opinion.



This Opinion also serves as consultation on essential fish habitat pursuant to section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 600.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please contact Christy Fellas of my staff in the Oregon Habitat Branch at 503.231.2307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell M. Strach for". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

Endangered Species Act - Section 7 Consultation
&
Magnuson-Stevens Act
Essential Fish Habitat Consultation


BIOLOGICAL OPINION

Rogers Landing Marine Park Boat Ramp and
Transient Dock Replacement,
Willamette River, Yamhill County, Oregon
(USFWS No. Y-3-D)

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid

Consultation Conducted By: National Marine Fisheries Service,
Northwest Region

Date Issued: May 20, 2002

Issued by: 
D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

Refer to: OHB-2000-0207-FEC

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1. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

1.1 Background

On March 21, 2002, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requesting formal consultation on the issuance of a grant under the Sport Fish Restoration Act to the Oregon State Marine Board by the USFWS for replacement of a boat ramp and transient dock on the Willamette River near Newberg, Oregon. In the March letter and biological assessment (BA) the USFWS determined that Upper Willamette River (UWR) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Upper Willamette River chinook (*O. tshawytscha*) may occur within the project area. Based on adequate information received from the USFWS, the NMFS has prepared this biological opinion (Opinion). The NMFS has determined that the proposed project is “likely to adversely affect” (LAA) the listed species or their designated critical habitat. The NMFS listed UWR steelhead and chinook salmon under the ESA as threatened on March 24, 1999 (64 FR 14517). Critical habitat for these species was designated on February 16, 2000 (65 FR 7764). Protective regulations for steelhead and chinook were designated on July 10, 2000 (65 FR 42423).

The NMFS has prepared this Opinion to address impacts to these species as a result of the proposed project. The objective of this Opinion is to determine whether the actions, including the proposed mitigation measures, are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the above listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

1.2. Proposed Action

The USFWS proposes to issue a grant for a proposed project involving replacement of a boat ramp and a transient dock on the Willamette River near Newberg, Oregon. No upland facilities are proposed for this project. However, an existing parking lot will be retrofitted with oil separators to treat runoff. The new boat ramp will be constructed at the west end of Rogers Marine Park. The bankline will be lowered 20 feet at the new site and sloped to establish a 15% ramp grade from top to toe. Excavation will be approximately 6,700 cubic yards (cy) of silt below ordinary high water (OHW). Vegetation clearing and construction disturbance will be limited to 10 feet around the excavation area (0.45 acres total).

The new boat ramp will be a three-lane concrete configuration, supported by four steel piles, with the toe of the ramp elevated to 14 feet above the river bed. Components of the ramp will be made of fully cured, pre-cast concrete planks. The upper portion of the ramp will be supported by crushed base rock, placed to a depth of 6 inches. Approximately 155 cy of the base rock will be located below OHW.

A debris deflection boom will be installed upstream from the ramp to protect the facility from damage caused by floating debris. The 160-foot long boom will be supported by nine steel piles, and five vertical piles reinforced with four batter piles. To provide short term tie-up for boats, non-treated wood boarding floats and a concrete transient dock will be installed on the

downstream side of the ramp. Additionally, a six-foot by 200-foot boarding float will be installed on the upstream side of the ramp, supported by five steel piles. Boarding float widths will not exceed six feet in width, and will be constructed of non-treated wood and plastic. On the end of the downstream boarding float, an 8-foot by 200-foot concrete transient dock will be connected. This dock will be supported by seven steel piles, and grating strips (2 feet wide) will be installed to pass ambient light.

Erosion control fabric and native shrub plantings will be used to stabilize the cut bank along the new ramp alignment. The bank will be sloped and contoured to natural conditions. The sides of the ramp will be lined with 100 cy of Class 100 riprap and then covered by at least 6 inches of native topsoil and planted with native grasses to aid infiltration of runoff and prevent movement of soil. A total of 43 trees, as well as 60 shrubs and saplings will be removed prior to excavation. All trees and shrubs removed will be replaced on site at a 2.5:1 ratio. No less than 325 trees and 250 shrubs will be planted on the riverbank to provide a riparian buffer between the existing parking area and the Willamette River. Additional plantings of native trees and shrubs will be placed around the perimeter of the facility. The existing boat ramp will be removed and the site will be restored using native plants and sediment. Large wood material suitable for habitat creation will be salvaged and used in the restoration of the old boat ramp site.

1.3. Biological Information and Critical Habitat

The action area is defined by NMFS regulations (50 CFR 402) as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.” The action area includes designated critical habitat affected by the proposed action within the Willamette River. The action area is the Willamette River (river mile 50.2) adjacent to the Rogers Landing Marine Park facility and 300 feet downstream. Essential habitat features for salmonids are: (1) Substrate, (2) water quality, (3) water quantity, (4) water temperature, (5) water velocity, (6) cover/shelter, (7) food (juvenile only), (8) riparian vegetation, (9) space, and (10) safe passage conditions (50 CFR 226). The proposed action may affect the essential habitat features of water quality, cover/shelter, safe passage and riparian vegetation.

1.4. Evaluating Proposed Actions

The standards for determining jeopardy are set forth in Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA as defined by 50 CFR 402 (the consultation regulations). NMFS must determine whether the action is likely to jeopardize the listed species and/or whether the action is likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. This analysis involves the initial steps of: (1) Defining the biological requirements of the listed species, and (2) evaluating the relevance of the environmental baseline to the species' current status.

Subsequently, NMFS evaluates whether the action is likely to jeopardize the listed species by determining if the species can be expected to survive with an adequate potential for recovery. In making this determination, NMFS must consider the estimated level of mortality attributable to: (1) Collective effects of the proposed or continuing action, (2) the environmental baseline, and

(3) any cumulative effects. This evaluation must take into account measures for survival and recovery specific to the listed species' life stages that occur beyond the action area. If NMFS finds that the action is likely to jeopardize, NMFS must identify reasonable and prudent alternatives for the action.

NMFS also evaluates whether the action, directly or indirectly, is likely to destroy or adversely modify the listed species' critical habitat. NMFS must determine whether habitat modifications appreciably diminish the value of critical habitat for both survival and recovery of the listed species, and identify any effects of the action that impair the function of any essential feature of critical habitat. NMFS then considers whether such impairment appreciably diminishes the habitat's value for the species' survival and recovery. If NMFS concludes that the action will adversely modify critical habitat, it must identify any reasonable and prudent alternatives available.

For the proposed action, NMFS' jeopardy analysis considers direct or indirect mortality of fish attributable to the action. NMFS' critical habitat analysis considers the extent to which the proposed action impairs the function of essential elements necessary for migration, spawning, and rearing of the listed species under the existing environmental baseline.

1.4.1. Biological Requirements

The first step in the methods NMFS uses for applying the ESA section 7(a)(2) to listed salmon is to define the species' biological requirements that are most relevant to each consultation. NMFS also considers the current status of the listed species taking into account population size, trends, distribution and genetic diversity. To assess the current status of the listed species, NMFS starts with the determinations made in its decision to list the species for ESA protection, and also considers new data available that is relevant to the determination.

The relevant biological requirements are those necessary for salmonids to survive and recover to naturally-reproducing population levels at which protection under the ESA would become unnecessary. Adequate population levels must safeguard the genetic diversity of the listed stock, enhance its capacity to adapt to various environmental conditions, and allow it to become self-sustaining in the natural environment.

For this consultation, the biological requirements are improved habitat characteristics that function to support successful migration, rearing habitat and over-wintering refugia. Salmon survival in the wild depends upon the proper functioning of certain ecosystem processes, including habitat formation and maintenance. Restoring functional habitats depends largely on allowing natural processes to increase their ecological function, while at the same time removing adverse impacts of current practices. In conducting analyses of habitat-altering actions, NMFS usually defines the biological requirements in terms of a concept called Properly Functioning

Condition (PFC) and utilizes a “habitat approach” to its analysis.¹ The current status of listed salmonids in the Willamette River, based upon their risk of extinction, has not significantly improved since the species were listed. NMFS is not aware of any new data that would indicate otherwise.

1.4.2. Environmental Baseline

The Willamette River watershed covers a vast area (11,500 square miles) bordered on the east and west by the Cascades and the Pacific coast ranges. It drains from as far south as Cottage Grove, and flows north to its confluence with the Columbia River. The Willamette River watershed is the largest river basin in Oregon. It is home to most of the state’s population, its largest cities, and many major industries. The watershed also contains some of Oregon’s most productive agricultural lands, and supports important fishery resources (City of Portland 2001).

The uplands (Coast and Cascade Ranges) receive about 80 percent of the precipitation falling on the Willamette River basin, and store much of this water as snow. Ecosystem productivity in these upland streams is relatively low, with aquatic insects gleaning much of their diet from material that falls into running water. In larger, slower tributaries, more plant material is produced in the stream itself. The mainstem supports a highly productive algal community that blooms as temperatures rise in the summer. Insects and some vertebrates feed on these plants, and many vertebrates, including salmonids, feed on stream-dwelling insects. Much of the habitat for Willamette River salmonids has been degraded by various land use practices or eliminated by dams. Wild salmonid populations have declined precipitously over the last century in the Willamette River (WRI 1999).

Basin health has been affected in terms of water and habitat quality and quantity. Many native species have been adversely affected due to the introduction of non-native species, loss of habitat and habitat degradation, and contaminated waters which impede species’ development. Some streams and rivers in the basin have high temperatures and insufficient flows during summer months, which adversely impact aquatic species such as salmon and steelhead. Low flows also reduce the ability of the river to dilute contaminants, the presence of which may lead to dangers for both aquatic species and humans. Such contaminants are often found with great frequency in the basin as a result of erosion from agricultural, industrial, urban and forested lands. Increased population and development have further compounded these problems, resulting in the loss of much critical habitat and increased pollution (WRI 1999).

The project area contains aquatic and riparian conditions with a limited presence of plant and wildlife species. The existing boat ramp and upland facilities (access road and parking lot)

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region. 26 August 1999. The Habitat Approach: Implementation of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for Actions Affecting the Habitat of Pacific Anadromous Salmonids. Guidance memorandum from Assistant Regional Administrators for Habitat Conservation and Protected Resources to staff. 13 pages. NMFS, 525 NE Oregon St, Ste 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737.

consist of concrete and wood with little vegetation. There is little or no vegetation in the riparian area between the parking lot and the Willamette River.

1.5. Analysis of Effects

1.5.1. Effect of Proposed Action

The Willamette River serves as an important migration route for numerous species of anadromous fish, whether they key on shallow, nearshore habitats as the fall chinook salmon do, or migrate to mid-river as the steelhead juveniles (Dawley et al. 1986). The addition of boat docks and their accompanying in-water structures and upland facilities may affect anadromous fish through loss of riparian habitat providing: Food and cover for fish, creation of predatory fish and avian habitat, a decrease in water quality from in-water work, and an increase in turbidity, disturbance or pollution due to increased boat activity.

Riparian habitats are one of the most ecologically-productive and diverse terrestrial environments (Kondolf et al. 1996, Naiman et al. 1993). Vegetation in riparian areas provides soil stability, shade, large wood (LW) supply, and food for fish and their prey. In addition, riparian vegetation and LW can provide low velocity shelter habitat for fish during periods of flooding. Instream LW provides similar habitat at all flow levels, as well as shelter from predators, habitat for prey species, and sediment storage and channel stability attributes (Spence *et al.* 1996).

The manipulation of vegetation and LW associated with construction in riparian areas and in stream channels can change the characteristics of the riparian area in ways which would tend to adversely affect fish. Short-term effects on vegetation include the outright destruction or removal of vegetation and LW, as well as lesser disturbances such as: Trampling, shallow or temporary burial by stockpiled material, temporary displacement of LW, and trimming, mowing, and scraping of vegetation. Long-term effects include permanent, or near-permanent, displacement of habitat vegetation through paving, armoring, or maintenance of utility or access corridors. Such long-term effects on vegetation would also tend to cause a long-term reduction in riparian and instream LW.

The placement of a boat dock will generally result in permanent loss of some riparian habitat. The extent of area of that loss is usually small. Revegetation of any riparian areas disturbed by construction activities, in time, will maintain or improve habitat conditions for salmonids within the action area by potentially increasing plant densities in degraded areas, or changing plant species at the site to those that are more beneficial to aquatic species.

An effect of over-water structures is the creation of a light/dark interface that allows ambush predators to remain in a darkened area (barely visible to prey) and watch for prey to swim by against a bright background (high visibility) (Helfman 1981). Prey species moving around the structure are unable to see predators in the dark area under the structure and are more susceptible to predation. The incorporation of grating into docks allows for more light penetration and

diffuses the light/dark interface. This will minimize the susceptibility of juvenile salmonids to piscivorous predation resulting from this type of project.

Shading from docks, piers, boat houses and moored boats could also reduce juvenile salmonid prey organism abundance, as well as the complexity of the habitat, i.e., reducing aquatic vegetation and phytoplankton abundance (Kahler et al. 2000). This area of the Willamette River does not support substantial aquatic vegetation. The size of the dock with grating should minimize shading. This will minimize any potential loss of aquatic vegetation or phytoplankton productivity.

In-water structures (tops of pilings) also provide perching platforms for avian predators such as double-crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritis*), from which they can launch feeding forays or dry plumage. High energy demands associated with flying and swimming create a need for voracious predation by cormorants on live prey (Ainley 1984). Placement of piles to support the dock structures will potentially provide for some usage by cormorants. Placement of anti-perching devices on the top of the pilings would preclude their use by any potential avian predators.

Residential docks, especially marinas, are likely to have high levels of boating activity in their immediate vicinity, particularly in areas adjacent to floats. Specifically, docks serve as a mooring area for boats or a staging platform for recreational boating activities. There are several impacts boating activity may have on listed salmonids and aquatic habitat. Engine noise, prop movement, and the physical presence of a boat hull may disrupt or displace nearby fishes (Mueller 1980, Warrington 1999a). Boat traffic may also cause increased turbidity in shallow waters, uprooting of aquatic macrophytes in shallow waters, or aquatic pollution (through exhaust, fuel spills, or release of petroleum lubricants) (Warrington 1999b). These boating impacts indirectly affect listed fish in a number of ways: Turbidity may injure or stress affected fishes (Spence *et al.* 1996); and the loss of aquatic macrophytes may expose salmonids to predation, decrease littoral productivity, or alter local species assemblages and trophic interactions. Despite a general lack of data specifically for salmonids, pollution from boats may cause short-term injury, physiological stress, decreased reproductive success, cancer, or death for fishes in general. Further, pollution may also impact fishes by impacts to potential prey species or aquatic vegetation. The proposed dock would not substantially alter the above listed parameters.

1.5.2. Effects on Critical Habitat

NMFS designates critical habitat based on physical and biological features that are essential to the listed species. Essential features for designated critical habitat include substrate, water quality, water quantity, water temperature, food, riparian vegetation, access, water velocity, space and safe passage. Effects on critical habitat from the proposed action are included in the effects description above.

1.5.3. Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are defined in 50 CFR 402.02 as "those effects of future state or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur within the action area of the Federal action subject to consultation." Other activities within the watershed have the potential to impact fish and habitat within the action area. Future Federal actions, including the ongoing operation of hydropower systems, hatcheries, fisheries, and land management activities are being (or have been) reviewed through separate section 7 consultation processes.

Non-federal activities within the action area are expected to increase with a projected 34 percent increase in human population over the next 25 years in Oregon (Oregon Department of Administrative Services 1999). Thus, NMFS assumes that future private and state actions will continue within the action area, but at increasingly higher levels as population density climbs.

1.6. Conclusion

NMFS has determined, based on the information, analysis, and assumptions described in this Opinion, that the issuance of a grant to the Oregon State Marine Board by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Sport Fish Restoration Act for replacement of a boat ramp and transient dock near Newberg, on the Willamette River is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed chinook and steelhead. In arriving at this determination, NMFS considered the status of the listed species, environmental baseline conditions, the direct and indirect effects of approving the action, and the cumulative effects of actions anticipated in the action area.

NMFS evaluated the proposed action and found that it would cause short-term adverse degradation of some environmental baseline indicators for listed species. Timing and construction restrictions would minimize these impacts. Construction materials (untreated wood and steel) will not affect water quality. Plantings in disturbed areas and revegetation of the existing boat ramp site would alleviate any long-term impacts to riparian areas and potentially improve the existing condition. A dock configuration incorporating light permeable gratings would reduce effects of shading. Boat traffic from the boat dock is not likely to cause detrimental effects.

The proposed action is not expected to result in further degradation of aquatic habitats over the long term. Thus, the effects of the proposed action would not reduce water quality, cover/shelter, riparian vegetation or upstream/downstream migration survival rates to a level that would appreciably diminish the likelihood of survival and recovery of listed fishes, nor is it likely to result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats.

1.7. Conservation Recommendations

Section 7 (a)(1) of the ESA directs Federal agencies to use their authorities to further the purposes of the ESA by carrying out conservation programs for the benefit of the threatened and endangered species. Conservation recommendations are discretionary measures suggested to

minimize or avoid adverse effects of a proposed action on listed species, to minimize or avoid adverse modification of critical habitats, or to develop additional information.

Human activities alter the structural elements of aquatic systems and cause changes to the landscape through run off of nutrients, sediments, organic material and contaminants (Jennings et al. 1999). Littoral zone habitat alterations are incremental and cumulative occurring at the spatial scale of individual properties (Jennings et al. 1999). This puts at odds the concern for ecosystem functions, and the perception that minor, localized modifications are insignificant (Jennings et al. 1999).

To monitor the role of ecosystem functions and the extent of these minor modifications, NMFS believes the following conservation recommendation should be carried out by the USFWS:

- To the greatest extent possible, the USFWS should develop a database that consists of all grants that have resulted in projects. The database should be compatible with monitoring information that will be produced to meet the requirements of this Opinion. Thus each project entered into the database should be identified by 5th field hydrological unit code (HUC), and contain, where possible, the following information: 1) Permit number; 2) applicant name, 3) project name, 4) photo documentation of the project, 5) location by river mile and lat/long, 5) starting and ending dates for work done under the grant, and 6) the USFWS contact person.

NMFS believes this information will help to reduce uncertainty about the effects of past and ongoing, human and natural factors affecting the status of listed salmon and steelhead, their habitats, and the aquatic ecosystem.

In order for NMFS to be kept informed of actions minimizing or avoiding adverse effects, or those that benefit listed salmon and steelhead or their habitats, NMFS requests notification of the achievement of any conservation recommendations by a report describing achievements.

1.8. Reinitiation of Consultation

This concludes formal consultation on these actions in accordance with 50 CFR 402.14(b)(1). Reinitiation of consultation is required: (1) If the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded, (2) if the action is modified in a way that causes an effect on the listed species that was not previously considered in the information provided by the USFWS and this biological opinion, (3) new information or project monitoring reveals effects of the action that may affect the listed species in a way not previously considered, or (4) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the action (50 CFR 402.16).

2. INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT

Sections 4(d) and 9 of the ESA prohibit any taking (harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct) of listed species without a specific permit or exemption. Harm is further defined to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, and sheltering. Harass is defined as actions that create the likelihood of injuring listed species to such an extent as to significantly alter normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, and sheltering. Incidental take is take of listed species that results from, but is not the purpose of, the Federal agency or the applicant carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Under the terms of section 7(b)(4) and section 7(o)(2), taking that is incidental to, and not intended as part of, the agency action is not considered prohibited taking provided that such taking is in compliance with the terms and conditions of this incidental take statement.

An incidental take statement specifies the impact of any incidental taking of endangered or threatened species. It also provides reasonable and prudent measures that are necessary to minimize impacts and sets forth terms and conditions with which the action agency must comply in order to implement the reasonable and prudent measures.

2.1. Amount or Extent of the Take

NMFS anticipates that the action covered by this Opinion is reasonably certain to result in incidental take of listed species. Effects of actions such as these are largely unquantifiable and are not expected to be measurable as long-term effects on population levels. Therefore, even though NMFS expects some low-level of incidental take to occur due to the actions covered by this Opinion, the best scientific and commercial data available are not sufficient to enable NMFS to estimate a specific amount of incidental take to the species itself. In instances such as these, the NMFS designates the expected level of take as "unquantifiable." Based on the information provided by the USFWS, NMFS anticipates that an unquantifiable amount of incidental take could occur as a result of the actions covered by this Opinion.

2.2. Reasonable and Prudent Measures

The measures described below are non-discretionary. They must be implemented so that they become binding conditions in order for the exemption in section 7(a)(2) to apply. The USFWS has the continuing duty to regulate the activities covered in this incidental take statement. If the USFWS fails to require the applicants to adhere to the terms and conditions of this incidental take statement through enforceable terms that are added to the permit or grant document, or fails to retain the oversight to ensure compliance with these terms and conditions, the protective coverage of section 7(o)(2) may lapse.

The NMFS believes that, in addition to the conditions proposed by the USFWS, the following reasonable and prudent measures are necessary and appropriate to minimize the likelihood of take of listed fish resulting from implementation of the project. This reasonable and prudent measure would also minimize adverse effects to designated critical habitat.

1. The USFWS shall minimize the likelihood of incidental take from boat docks by applying conditions to avoid or minimize disturbance to riparian and aquatic systems.
2. The USFWS shall minimize the likelihood of incidental take from activities involving use of heavy equipment and site restoration, or that may otherwise involve in-water work or affect fish passage by applying conditions to avoid or minimize disturbance to riparian and aquatic systems.
3. The USFWS shall monitor project implementation and report the results to ensure that the terms and conditions included in this Opinion are effective in minimizing the likelihood of take from permitted activities.

2.3. Terms and Conditions

To be exempt from the prohibitions of section 9 of the ESA, the USFWS must comply with the following terms and conditions, which implement the reasonable and prudent measures described above for each category of activity. These terms and conditions are non-discretionary. Many of the terms and conditions are relevant to more than one category of activity (e.g. conditions to minimize turbidity increases are equally important in erosion control, stream and wetland restoration, maintenance dredging, road construction, etc.). Therefore, terms and conditions listed under one category of activity are also terms and conditions of any category in which they would also minimize impacts to salmonids.

1. To implement the Reasonable and Prudent Measure #1 (aquatic facilities), the USFWS shall ensure that in addition to their proposed conditions:
 - a. Access walkways, docks and related features. All access walkways, docks and related features will be constructed as follows:
 - i. Boat ramps, docks, piers, or other over-water facilities wider than 6 feet shall be located where current velocity is greater than 0.7 feet per second during the low flow period (April 1 through August 31) and the structure shall be more than 50 feet from the shoreline and in water more than 20 feet deep.
 - ii. Docks will be placed in water deep enough so that moored boats never ground out or prop wash the bottom.
 - iii. The docks shall be located in areas that currently have sufficient depth to preclude dredging. The design of the facility shall not create a deposition zone that would necessitate future dredging.
 - iv. Pilings shall be limited in size and quantity to the minimum necessary to support dock structures.
 - v. Treated wood for dock decking shall not be allowed.
 - vi. Prior to construction, the applicant will supply to the USFWS a report indicating the presence or absence of aquatic vegetation that may be lost

by placement of the docks. If aquatic vegetation is present, the docks should be realigned to prevent loss.

- b. Piscivorous bird deterrence. All pilings and navigational aids, such as moorings, and channel markers, will be fitted with devices to prevent perching by piscivorous bird species.
2. To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure # 2 (in-water work), the USFWS shall ensure that:
- a. All reasonable alternatives have been considered, and impacts to natural resources have been avoided, minimized and mitigated, and that the following overall project design conditions are met:
 - i. Minimum area. Construction impacts will be confined to the minimum area necessary to complete the project.
 - ii. In-water work. All work within the active channel of all anadromous fish-bearing streams, or in systems which could potentially contribute sediment or toxicants to downstream fish-bearing systems, will be completed within the ODFW approved in-water work period.²
 - (1) Work period extensions. Extensions of the in-water work period, including those for work outside the wetted perimeter of the stream but below the ordinary high water mark must be approved by biologists from NMFS.
 - iii. Site restoration. Site restoration and clean-up, including protection of bare earth by seeding, planting, mulching and fertilizing, shall be done in the following manner:
 - (1) All damaged areas will be restored to pre-work conditions including restoration of original streambank lines, and contours.
 - (2) All exposed soil surfaces, including construction access roads and associated staging areas, will be stabilized at finished grade with mulch, native herbaceous seeding, and native woody vegetation prior to October 1.
 - (3) Disturbed areas will be planted with native vegetation specific to the project vicinity or the region of the state where the project is located, and will comprise a diverse assemblage of woody and herbaceous species.
 - (4) Plantings will be arranged randomly within the revegetation area.
 - (5) All plantings will be completed prior to April 15.
 - (6) No herbicide application will occur within 300 feet of any stream channel as part of this permitted action. Mechanical removal of undesired vegetation and root nodes is permitted.

² Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, *Guidelines for Timing of In-Water Work to Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources*, 12 pp (June 2000)(identifying work periods with the least impact on fish)(http://www.dfw.state.or.us/ODFWhtml/InfoCntrHbt/0600_inwtrguide.pdf).

- (7) No surface application of fertilizer will be used within 50 feet of any stream channel as part of this permitted action.
 - (8) Fencing will be installed as necessary to prevent access to revegetated sites by livestock or unauthorized persons.
 - (9) Plantings will achieve an 80 percent survival success after three years.
 - (a) If success standard has not been achieved after 3 years, the applicant will submit an alternative plan to the USFWS. The alternative plan will address temporal loss of function.
 - (b) Plant establishment monitoring will continue and plans will be submitted to the USFWS until site restoration success has been achieved.
3. To implement Reasonable and Prudent Measure # 3 (monitoring and reporting), the USFWS shall ensure that:
- a. Within 60 days of completing the project, the applicant will submit a monitoring report describing the applicant's success meeting their permit conditions. This report will consist of the following information:
 - i. Project identification.
 - ii. Permit number.
 - iii. Applicant's name.
 - iv. Project name.
 - v. Project location by 5th field hydrological unit code (HUC) and lat/long.
 - vi. Compensatory mitigation site(s) (if any) by 5th field HUC and lat/long.
 - vii. Starting and ending dates for work performed under the permit.
 - viii. The USFWS contact person.
 - ix. Site restoration monitoring to include documentation of the following conditions:
 - (1) Planting composition and density.
 - (2) A plan to inspect and, if necessary, replace failed plantings and structures for a period of 3 years.
 - (3) A narrative assessment of the project's effects on natural stream function.
 - (4) Photographic documentation of environmental conditions at the project site and compensatory mitigation site(s) (if any) before, during and after project completion.
 - (a) Photographs will include general project location views and close-ups showing details of the project area and project, including pre and post construction.
 - (b) Each photograph will be labeled with the date, time, photo point, project name, the name of the photographer, and a comment describing the photograph's subject.
 - (5) Relevant habitat conditions including characteristics of channels, streambanks, riparian vegetation, flows, water quality, and other

visually discernable environmental conditions at the project area, and upstream and downstream of the project; and

- x. Monitoring reports will be submitted to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attn: OSB2000-0207-FEC
525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97232

4. If a dead, injured, or sick endangered or threatened species specimen is located, initial notification must be made to the National Marine Fishery Service Law Enforcement Office, located at Vancouver Field Office, 600 Maritime, Suite 130, Vancouver, Washington 98661 or call: 360.418.4246. Care should be taken in handling sick or injured specimens to ensure effective treatment and care or the handling of dead specimens to preserve biological material in the best possible state for later analysis of cause of death. In conjunction with the care of sick or injured endangered and threatened species or preservation of biological materials from a dead animal, the finder has the responsibility to carry out instructions provided by Law Enforcement to ensure that evidence intrinsic to the specimen is not unnecessarily disturbed.

3. MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT

3.1 Background

The objective of the essential fish habitat (EFH) consultation is to determine whether the proposed action may adversely affect designated EFH for relevant species, and to recommend conservation measures to avoid, minimize, or otherwise offset potential adverse effects to EFH resulting from the proposed action.

3.2 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-297), requires the inclusion of EFH descriptions in Federal fishery management plans. In addition, the MSA requires Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on activities that may adversely affect EFH.

EFH means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (MSA §3). For the purpose of interpreting the definition of essential fish habitat: “Waters” include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; “substrate” includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; “necessary” means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and

“spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity” covers a species' full life cycle (50CFR600.110).

Section 305(b) of the MSA (16 U.S.C. 1855(b)) requires that:

1. Federal agencies must consult with NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect EFH.
2. NMFS shall provide conservation recommendations for any Federal or state activity that may adversely affect EFH.
3. Federal agencies shall within 30 days after receiving conservation recommendations from NMFS provide a detailed response in writing to NMFS regarding the conservation recommendations. The response shall include a description of measures proposed by the agency for avoiding, mitigating, or offsetting the impact of the activity on EFH. In the case of a response that is inconsistent with the conservation recommendations of NMFS, the Federal agency shall explain its reasons for not following the recommendations.

The MSA requires consultation for all actions that may adversely affect EFH, and does not distinguish between actions within EFH and actions outside EFH. Any reasonable attempt to encourage the conservation of EFH must take into account actions that occur outside EFH, such as upstream and upslope activities, that may have an adverse effect on EFH. Therefore, EFH consultation with NMFS is required by Federal agencies undertaking, permitting or funding activities that may adversely affect EFH, regardless of its location.

3.3 Identification of EFH

The Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) has designated EFH for three species of Pacific salmon: Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*); coho (*O. kisutch*); and Puget Sound pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*)(PFMC 1999). Freshwater EFH for Pacific salmon includes all streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and other water bodies currently, or historically accessible to salmon in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California, except areas upstream of certain impassable man-made barriers (as identified by the PFMC), and longstanding, naturally-impassable barriers (i.e., natural waterfalls in existence for several hundred years). Detailed descriptions and identifications of EFH for salmon are found in Appendix A to Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan (PFMC 1999). Assessment of potential adverse effects to these species' EFH from the proposed action is based on this information.

3.4 Proposed Action

The proposed action is detailed above in section 1.2. The action area includes designated EFH affected by the proposed action within the Willamette River. This area has been designated as EFH for chinook and coho salmon.

3.5 Effects of Proposed Action

As described in detail in Section 1.5, the proposed activities may result in short-term adverse effects to a variety of habitat parameters. Construction of docks and dock ramps may result in effects on water quality, riparian habitat and predation of salmonids.

3.6 Conclusion

NMFS believes that the proposed action may temporarily adversely affect the EFH for Pacific salmon species, however, the proposed action is not expected to result in further degradation of EFH habitats over the longterm.

3.7 EFH Conservation Recommendations

Pursuant to section 305(b)(4)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS is required to provide EFH conservation recommendations for any Federal or state agency action that would adversely affect EFH. The conservation measures proposed for the project by the Corps, all Conservation Recommendations outlined above in Section 1.7 and all of the Reasonable and Prudent Measures and the Terms and Conditions contained in Sections 2.2 and 2.3 are applicable to EFH. Therefore, NMFS incorporates each of those measures here as EFH conservation recommendations.

3.8 Statutory Response Requirement

Please note that the Magnuson-Stevens Act (section 305(b)) and 50 CFR 600.920(j) requires the Federal agency to provide a written response to NMFS after receiving EFH conservation recommendations within 30 days of its receipt of this letter. This response must include a description of measures proposed by the agency to avoid, minimize, mitigate or offset the adverse impacts of the activity on EFH. If the response is inconsistent with a conservation recommendation from NMFS, the agency must explain its reasons for not following the recommendation.

3.9 Supplemental Consultation

The Corps must reinitiate EFH consultation with NMFS if either action is substantially revised or new information becomes available that affects the basis for NMFS' EFH conservation recommendations (50 CFR 600.920).

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